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ARGENTINA

Peronist labor leaders are pressing President Peron to curb the influence of her confidant, Jose Lopez Rega. They plan to meet with her soon and will probably push for his resignation and possibly that of Economic Minister Gomez Morales.

Most Argentine politicians apparently believe that there is sufficient opposition to Lopez Rega to force the issue with Mrs. Peron. During the past week, labor support for her government has significantly eroded. Although the government claims to have smashed a subversive plot to paralyze key industries, several factories are still occupied by workers protesting the arrest of left-wing trade union leaders.

This unrest has been accompanied by growing political criticism. For the first time, minority parties within the coalition that returned the Peronists to power have attacked Mrs. Peron for her economic policies and her failure to consult with them on other key issues.

The concerted labor opposition to Lopez Rega increases pressure on Mrs. Peron to get rid of her adviser. If she gives in, it is doubtful that she can complete her term without Lopez Rega's support. On the other hand, if she refuses to make meaningful concessions, she will face an increasing number of strikes, continuing terrorist violence, and further loss of public support. [redacted] 3.5(c)

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